Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction Partnership

Kick-Off Meeting

May 24, 2017

Multnomah County Central Library

Agenda

Purpose: Introduce and welcome participants to the partnership, share goals of the effort and hear perspectives from stakeholders.

1:00 - Introductions to the Day
Keith Johnson, DEQ and Mary Lou Soscia, EPA

1:20 - Welcome - Dan Opalski, EPA and Richard Whitman, DEQ

1:40 - Discussion on purpose of the Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership
DEQ Toxics Reduction Programs Overview & Maps
All participants

2:25 - Break

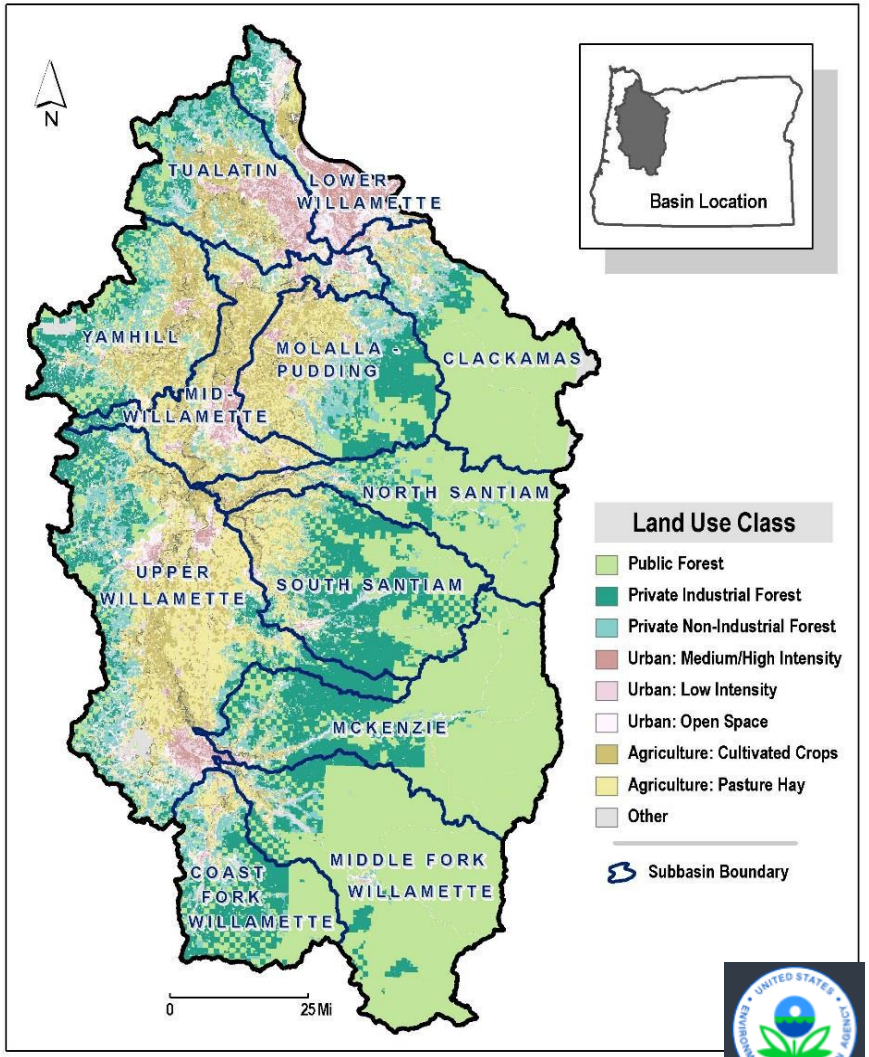
2:40 - Open Roundtable from meeting participants

3:30 - Wrap up and next steps – Keith Johnson, Mary Lou Soscia and All
Review group comments
What's next?

4pm - Adjourn

Tools to Achieve the Goals of the Portland Harbor Record of Decision

- In-water sediment cleanup in Portland Harbor
- Upland source control
- Ongoing Downtown Reach investigation and cleanups
- Upriver sources: Address through watershed strategy



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Challenge:
Ambient Toxics and Recontamination

- Remedial actions typically cleanup to "background" levels
- What if "background" risks are unacceptable?
- The Portland Harbor Record of Decision addresses toxics in sediment, but doesn't address all the toxics that may be in the water column…

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Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction Partnership

- Identified in Portland Harbor Record of Decision
- A collaborative effort between EPA and DEQ and interested agencies and stakeholders
- Goals:
  - Compile existing data;
  - Assess existing efforts and data gaps;
  - Recommend new efforts and strategies to reduce toxics in the watershed coming into Portland Harbor

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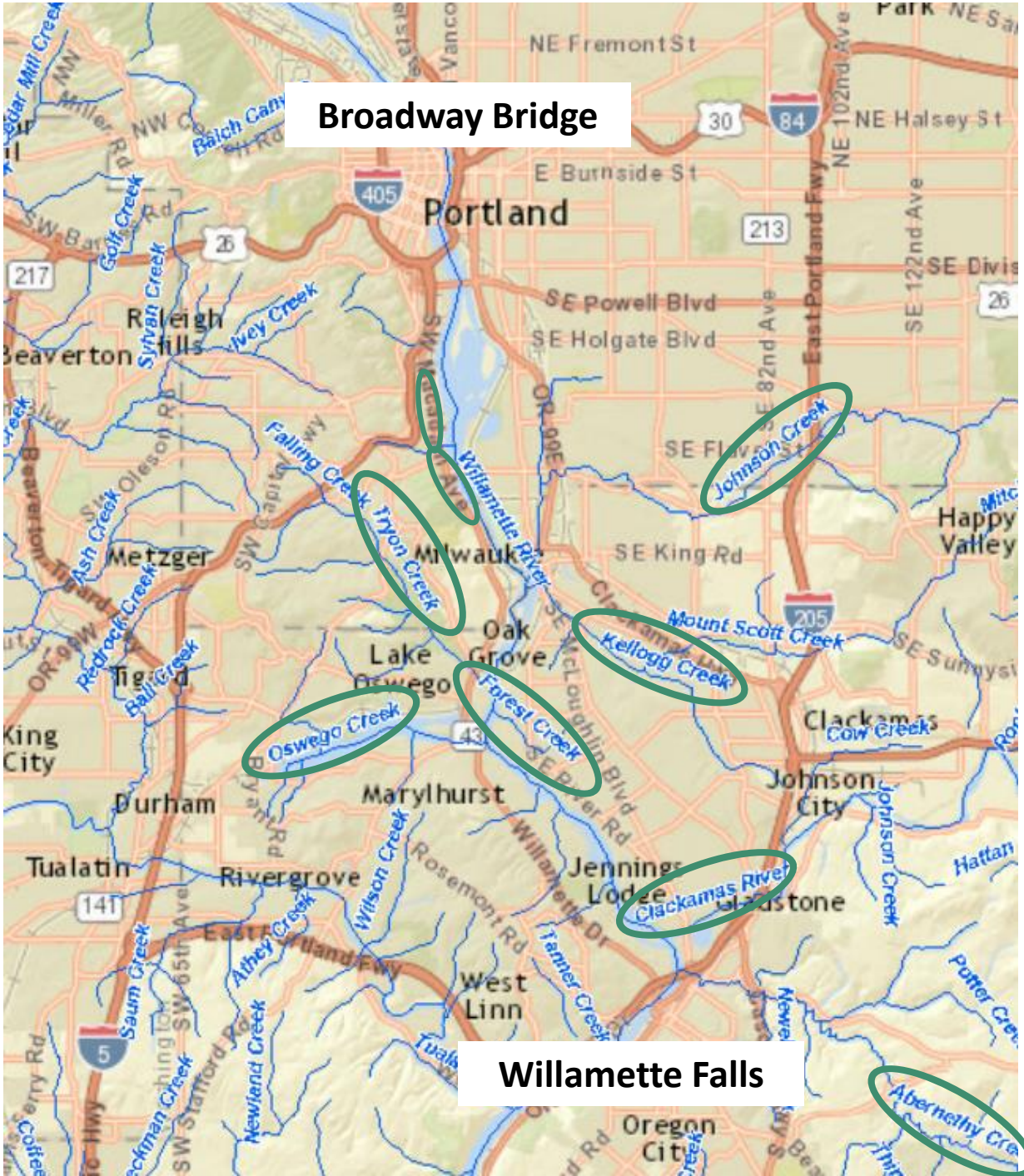

Initial Scope

- **Geographic Focus**: River Mile 12 to River Mile 26 + Tributaries

Upstream of the Portland Harbor Study Area to Willamette Falls

- **Pollutant Focus**:
  - PCBs
  - DDT
  - PAHs
  - Dioxins/Furans

  Consistent with the Portland Harbor Record of Decision

Compiling & Evaluating Existing Data

- Request for all DEQ and Federally held data
- Request for unidentified data from partners
- Creating database
- Devising queries
- Mapping data
- Looking for gaps & opportunities

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Understanding Existing Programs & Efforts & Efficacy

- Water Quality Programs
  - Standards
  - Permits (Wastewater, Stormwater, MS4)
  - Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Oregon Toxics Reduction Programs Relevant to Lower Willamette Toxics Reduction
  - Sediment Cleanups
  - Upland Cleanups
  - Hazardous Waste Generators & Landfills
  - School Lab Cleanouts
  - Pesticide Waste Collections & Other DEQ Toxics Strategy Actions

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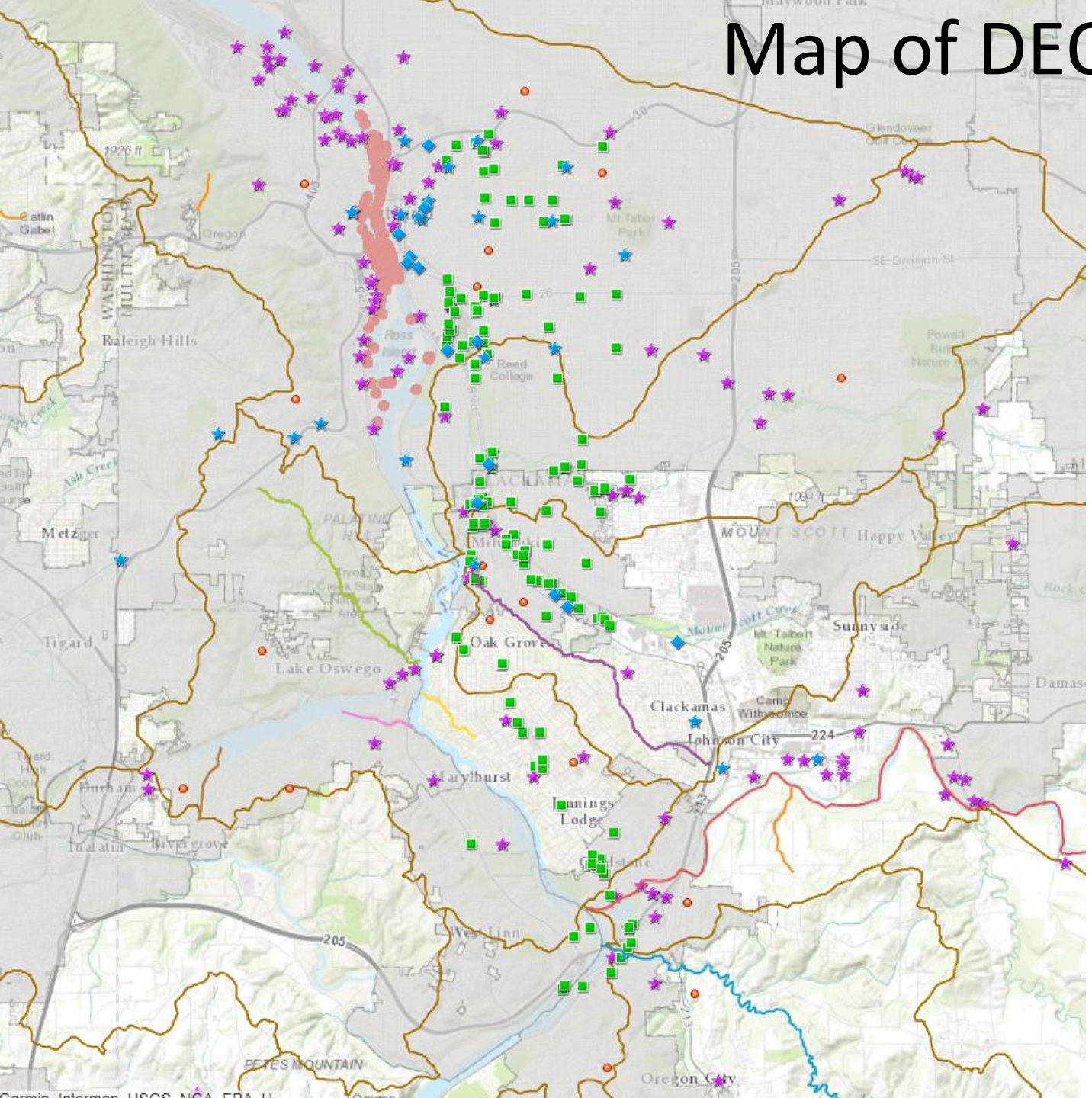
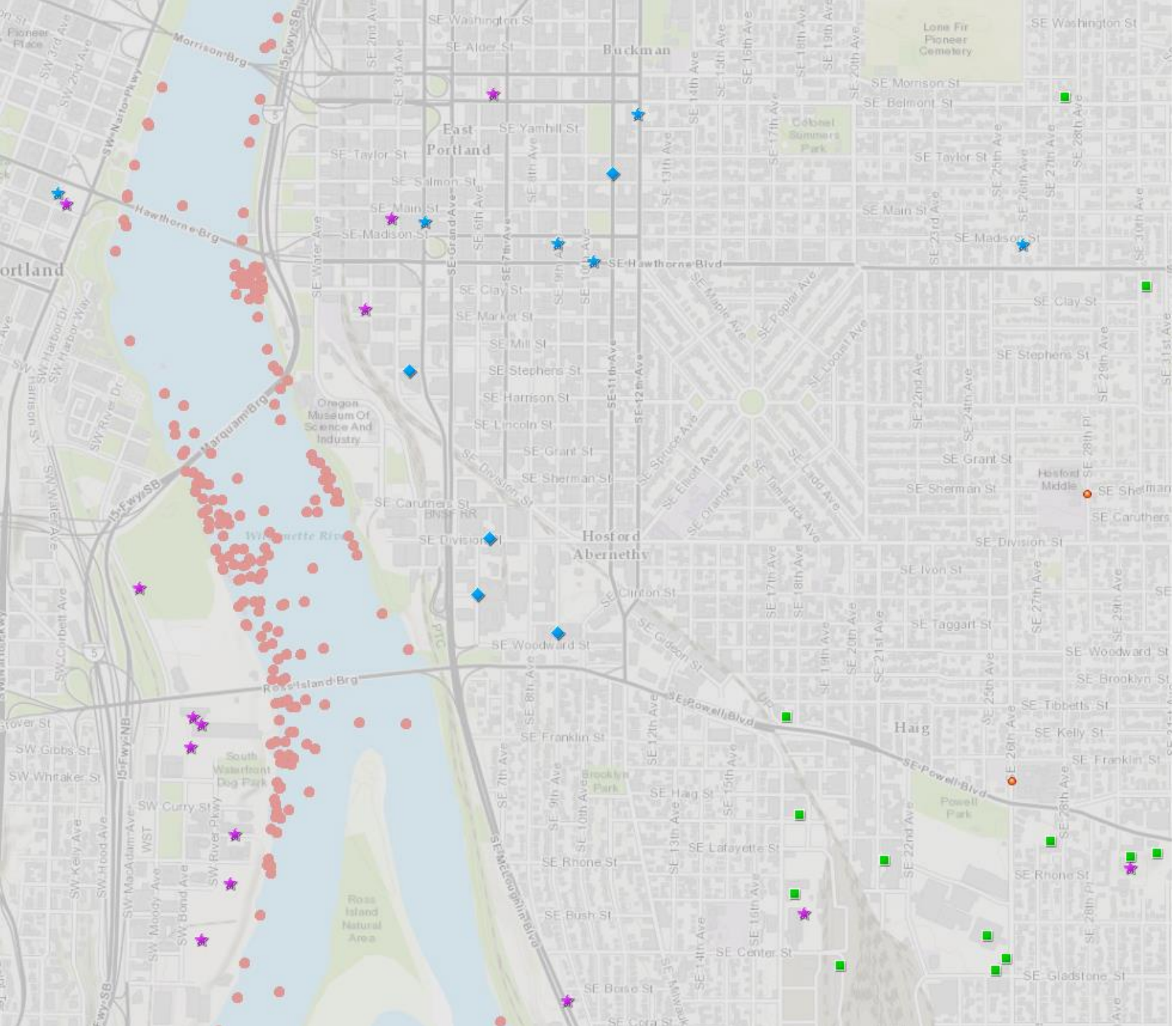
Map of DEQ Programs





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1200Z Industrial Stormwater Permit

- 2017 Renewal has Portland Harbor Georegion
- Majority of Industrial sites in PH already regulated under 1200Z Industrial Stormwater General Permit
- PH contaminants of concern = 303(d) impairment parameters – monitored since 2012
- Adding regulated industrial activities (not necessarily triggering SIC codes) – captures ~30 more sites
- Reduced TSS benchmark to 30 mg/L – to continue improving on source control by preventing discharge of solids and contaminants associated with particulates
- Columbia Slough precedent
- NPDES 1200A renewal in 2018

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Water Quality: Toxics Impairments
Willamette River (RM 0 – 24.8)

- aldrin
- chlordane
- copper
- cyanide
- 4,4-DDE
- 4,4-DDT
- dieldrin
- dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD
- hexachlorobenzene
- iron
- Lead
- mercury
- pentachlorophenol
- PCBs
- PAHs

Underline = Portland Harbor Contaminants of Concern

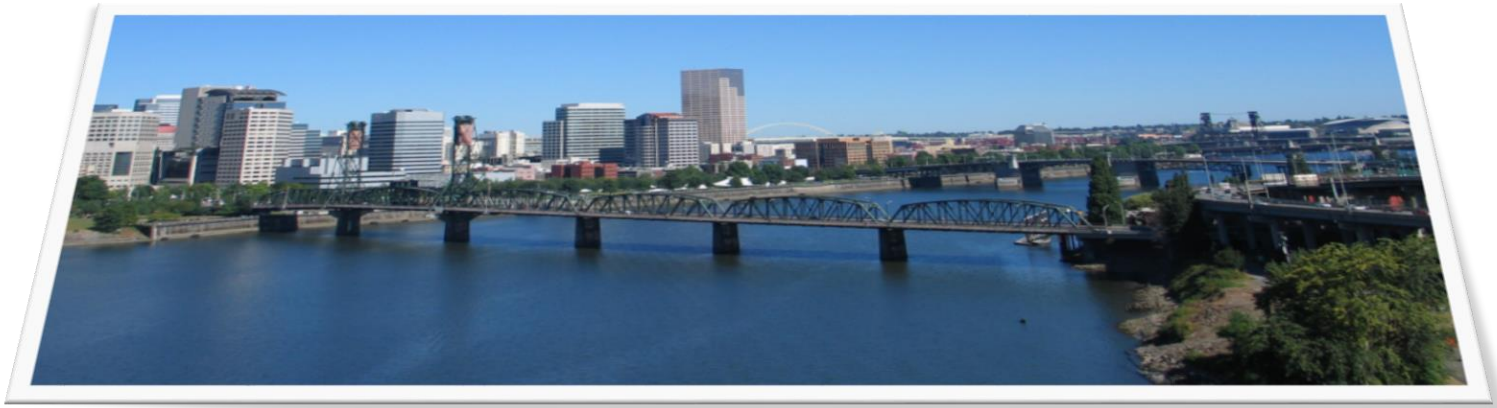

Photo credit: Multnomah Co.

Water Quality: Toxics Impairments
Willamette River Tributaries (RM 0-24.8)

Johnson Creek

- 4,4-DDE
- 4,4-DDT
- dieldrin
- endosulfan
- endrin aldehyde
- lead
- PCBs
- PAHs

Clackamas River

- lead
- mercury

Johnson Creek

Underline = Portland Harbor Contaminants of Concern

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Pollutant reduction plans to meet water quality standards

Local Agencies Must:

- Develop pollutant reduction plans approved by DEQ with annual reports
- Implement management strategies and develop timelines to reduce pollutants
- Monitor effectiveness of strategies and modify as needed

* 2006 TMDL for DDT and dieldrin for Johnson Creek

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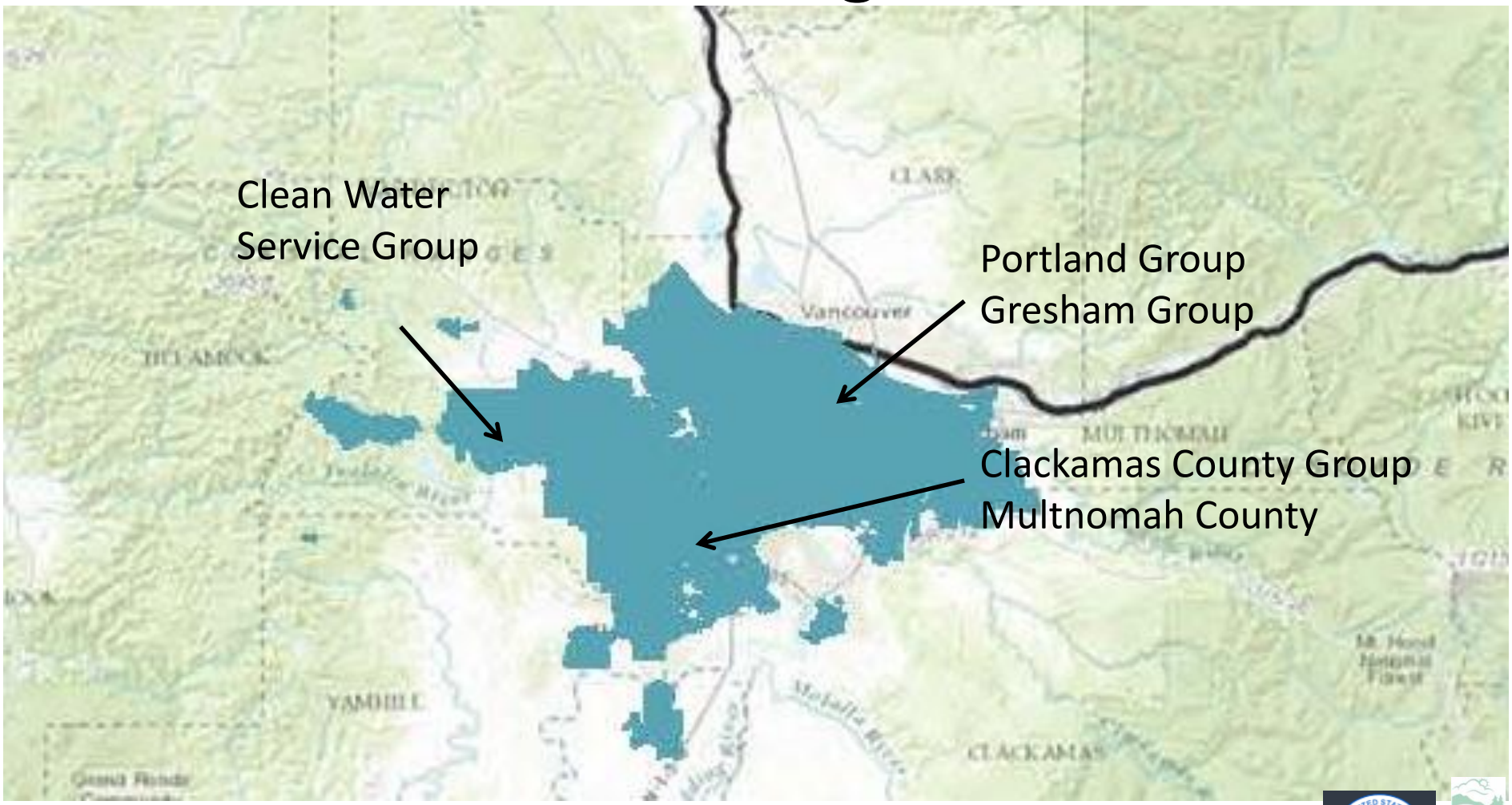
Municipal Stormwater Permit Coverage



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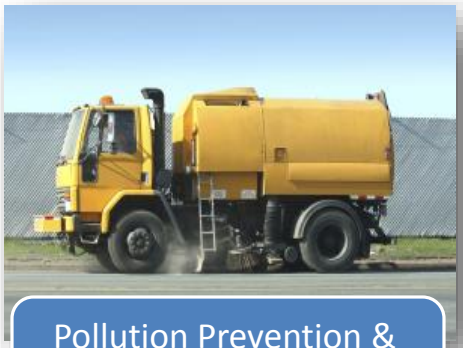
Municipal Stormwater Control Measures

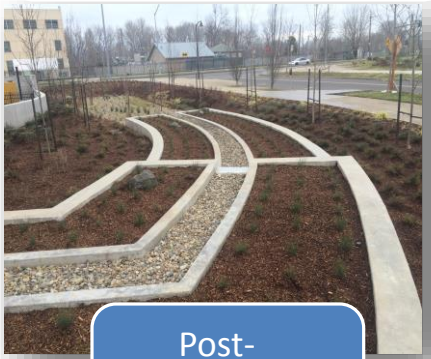
Local jurisdictions use their stormwater management plans to meet TMDL requirements for some pollutants



Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping

Education and Outreach

Public Involvement



Post-Construction

Construction Runoff

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

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DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy

- Developed in 2012 and updating in 2017
- Goals of strategy:
  - *Complement & support core program work*
  - *Take a more integrated, strategic approach to reducing toxics*
- Established "Focus" List of 51 priority chemicals (or categories of chemicals)
- 2012-17 Strategy actions emphasized "upstream" source reduction:
  - *Expand Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships*
  - *Government procurement of safer products*
  - *Collaborate on assessing toxic chemical alternatives and promoting "green chemistry"*

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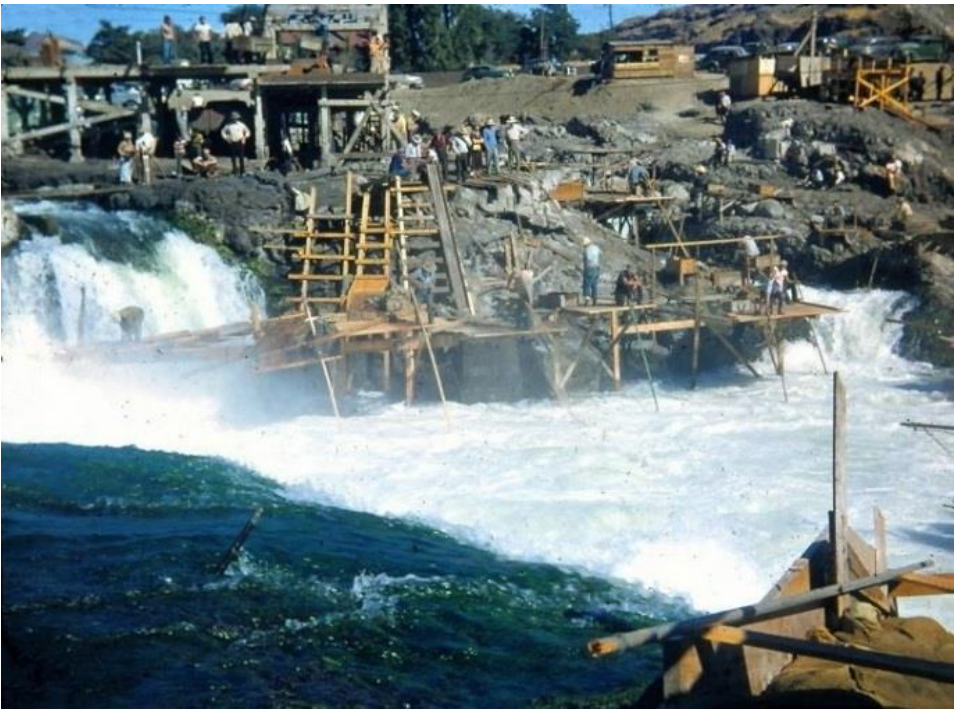
Pacific Northwest 10,000 years of Tribal History



Celilo Falls – Columbia River

Lamprey Harvest – Willamette Falls

Photo Credit: The Oregonian - July 13, 2012

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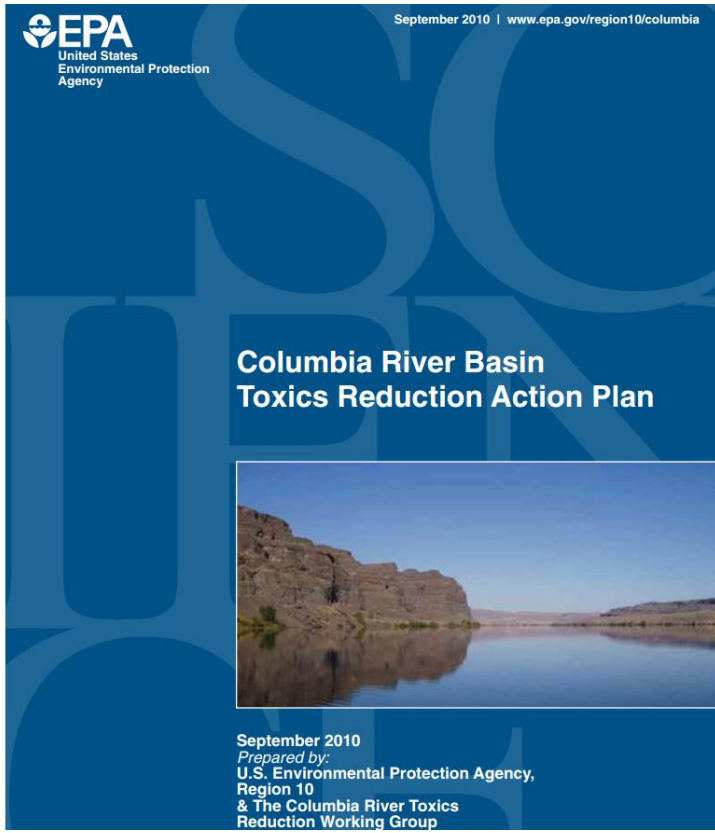
EPA – Long History of Commitment to Watershed Approaches

- EPA's National Estuary Program – Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Puget Sound National Estuary Program
- Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction
- ….Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction – intended to build off these work efforts

Build on Columbia River Toxics Reduction Work

- Collaboration partners similar
- Contaminants of Concern – PCBs, DDT, PAHs, Dioxins/Furan

- 2010 Action Plan
  - 61 Actions – same actions needed to reduce toxics in the Willamette River watershed
  - https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-toxics-reduction-action-plan



Collaboration is an Evolving Process

- Initial thinking:
  - Convene a collaboration - *anybody interested in working together on better understanding and reducing toxics in the Willamette River upstream of PH site*
  - State, Tribal government, Feds, Local Govt, NGOs, Industry, others…….
  - Group may evolve

May 24th Kickoff Meeting

- Meet with initial group, describe vision for work, what we know about toxics, and existing toxics reduction actions under way
- Get input from group on initial thinking and how we proceed
- Meetings to share information and identify opportunities to work together
  - Learn about existing watershed contamination and identify data gaps
    - Develop assessment to better understand toxics problem
  - Understand existing toxic reduction efforts and potential new opportunities
  - Recommend actions and work together to collaboratively implement actions
- Final report – end of 2018

Positive Action to Reduce Toxics

- OR CWA commitment to protect high fish consumers through the CWA and permit renewals
- Clean up of contaminated sites
- Green Infrastructure/Habitat and floodplain restoration
- Recognition and certification programs for those who go the extra prevention mile - Salmon Safe certification for Tualatin NWF?
- Less toxic air emissions from diesel engines
- Take back programs
- Green Chemistry/EPA Safer Choice
- Integrate federal salmon recovery habitat and wildlife mitigation with Willamette River toxics reduction
- Attention to communities which have not receive much attention in past?
- Columbia River Restoration Act

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Roundtable

- What are your ideas about toxics in the Willamette and reduction actions?
- Who else should be invited to participate?
- Do you have data to share?

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Contacts

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